

Bureau of Indian Affairs



Ada E. Deer, Assistant Secretary
Ralph Gonzales, Bureau Editor

Commercial forestry projects on Native American lands, like the Menominee project shown at right and below, are the types of enterprises eligible for a \$34.6 million federally-guaranteed loan program authorized by Congress and administered by lending institutions and the BIA.



\$35 Million in Loan Guarantees for Indian Entrepreneurs

A total of \$34.6 million in loan guarantee authority is currently available to assist tribal and individual enterprises on or near Indian reservations, **Ada E. Deer**, assistant secretary for Indian Affairs, recently announced. The loan guarantee program was authorized by the Indian Financing Act, which the U.S. Congress passed in 1974 to assist Indian tribes, Native Alaska groups, and their individual members with financing of business enterprises to develop Indian reservation and tribal economies.

“Many tribes credit the loan guaranty program for spurring economic activity in their communities,” Deer said. The program is currently funded with authority to guarantee payment of up to 90 percent of \$34,615,385 in loans to eligible Native Americans. Tribal and American Indian entrepreneurs are encouraged to contact a local lending institutions to begin the process for a loan guaranty under this program. The Bureau of Indian Affairs works with the applicant and the lending institution to process and secure the loan guarantee.

These guarantees have helped to finance Indian-owned business in construction, cattle ranching, commercial fishing and timber harvesting, air carrier charter services, shuttle bus services, convenience/grocery stores, charter and sightseeing, hotel/conference centers, office building rentals, bulk fuel stations, and others, according to **Nancy Jemison**, director of the Office of Economic Development. The program’s general requirements under the law are:

Eligibility—A borrower must be a federally recognized Indian tribe or Alaska Native group, or American Indian (an enrolled member of a federally recognized Indian tribe or Alaska Native group), or a business organization with no less than 51 percent American Indian ownership. The business must be on or near an Indian reservation. **Loan Purpose**—The loan must be used to finance American Indian and Alaska Native owned commercial, industrial, agriculture, or business activity organized for profit. **Loan Amount**—A maximum of \$5.5 million can be loaned to a tribe or tribally owned business, and \$500,000 to individuals.

Equity Requirements—A minimum of 20 percent of the value of the loan must be secured by either cash or unencumbered assets to be used in the proposed business. **Terms of Loan**—The loan’s maturity is determined by the lenders making the loan and is based on the type of loan, (e.g., manufacturing, retail, construction, seasonal, etc.) and the applicant’s ability to repay the loan. However, 30 years is the maximum maturity term.

Loan Guaranty—The percentage of a loan that is guaranteed is the minimum necessary to obtain financing, but may not exceed 90 percent of the unpaid principal and interest on the loan. **Application Procedures**—The applicant should work directly with a BIA approved lender and use the lender’s loan application and security documents. The applicant must have a fully completed business plan which demonstrates fiscal responsibility and sound management. The lender must initiate the request for a BIA Loan Guaranty. Complete guidelines can be obtained by referring to Title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 103, or contacting one of the local BIA Area Offices. **Initiation Request**—Requests for BIA loan guarantees may be submitted to the appropriate BIA Agency or Area Office at any time during the fiscal year (October 1-September 31) but approval is always subject to availability of funds.



Trust Fund Reform

Secretary Babbitt has expressed significant concerns with a Special Trustee’s proposal on how to reform the management of trust funds and resources for American Indian tribes and individuals. “Before I make final recommendations, I intend to give the Strategic Plan close and thorough study,” Babbitt said April 11, after he was briefed by **Special Trustee Paul Homan** on his final proposal. “The plan represents his views, independent from the Department of the Interior or the Office of Management and Budget.”

“First, it adds another new layer of bureaucracy by creating a quasi-private, quasi-government agency to manage and administer trust funds,” Babbitt explained. “Creating new bureaucracies does not necessarily serve the goal of solving problems. Second, it requires large, new budget outlays, and we will need to evaluate each aspect of the proposal. Third, and most important, it seems to lack a fundamental understanding of the relationship of sovereign tribal governments and federal trust responsibilities. Indian Tribes are sovereign nations, not business enterprises to be run for profit.

“I cannot support, and I believe that most tribes will not support, the separation and dissipation of the government-to-government trust relationship that extends well beyond funding to upholding the social, economic, and cultural best interests of tribes and individual tribal members.”

Homan recommended that an independent federal agency—the American Indian Trust and Development Administration—be established to assume and manage the U.S. Government’s trust management responsibilities for American Indians. Congress would oversee the agency, which would consolidate trust resources, trust funds, and land ownership and records management processes. The agency’s board and chairman would be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The agency would cost an estimated \$168 million to set up and its annual operating cost is estimated at \$56 million.

BIA Schools Getting Internet Access

Every elementary and secondary school in the BIA system will be connected to the Internet in time for the start of the new school year, under a partnership between the bureau and Projectneat, Inc.

As part of its mission to connect every K-12 school in America to the Internet, Projectneat will hook up the 187 schools serving American Indian students to the information superhighway by September 1 of this year, said **Ada Deer**, assistant secretary for Indian Affairs.

“We are thrilled that our American Indian students will have this access because there is a wealth of educational material available on the Internet that they will now be able to use. This is truly a dynamic initiative that will expand education programs at all of our schools,” Deer said.

The Internet appliance provided by Projectneat is a simple push-button access system which displays information on a large television screen instead of a computer monitor. These devices are considerably cheaper and easier to use than a conventional computer hook-up. Because of the 27-inch TV screen, an entire class may share information in a classroom setting. In addition, one system can serve an entire school. Schools will be able to access the Internet by dialing in through the Educational Native American Network (ENAN) which has been sponsored by BIA’s Office of Indian Education Programs since 1988.

“The installation of this equipment addresses one of our primary goals—to connect every school and tribal community to each other and the world—as well as President Clinton’s challenge to link every school to the Internet,” said **Joann Sebastian Morris**, director of the Office of Indian Education Programs. “I am very excited

about this program. It will provide our isolated, rural schools a resource that they have not previously had.”

The bureau’s Office of Indian Education Programs provides educational services to reservations in 23 states, from Maine to the Washington. More than half (105) of the 187 schools are operated by Indian Tribes through grants from the BIA. The others are operated by the Office of Indian Education Programs. The office entered the Projectneat partnership on behalf of the bureau.

“This partnership is a natural one, as our initial goal is to serve schools in rural areas and BIA schools certainly fall into this category,” said **Tom Rahimi**, president of Projectneat. “Our preliminary discussions with the BIA have been very positive and many important milestones have already been achieved.” The group plans to distribute the equipment in July in conjunction with a conference at Snowmass, Colorado.

Projectneat, an independent, non-profit public charity, based in Santa Clara, California, was founded in July, 1996. It has assembled a team of leading companies and associations to donate the hardware and software to connect schools to the Internet.

“I can think of no better way to bring excitement to our classrooms then connecting them to the vast information superhighway,” said **Peter Camp**, Projectneat coordinator for the bureau. “Our students have much to learn from others and a great deal to contribute to the pool of information available on the Internet. Through Projectneat, Indian students will have the same access that other students have in urban areas.”

Additional information about Projectneat is on the Internet at www.projectneat.org. The Office of Indian Education Program’s homepage may be accessed through the BIA’s homepage at www.doi.gov/bureau-indian-affairs.html. Peter Camp, BIA Project Coordinator can be reached at (202) 208-4411 and Tom Rahimi, Projectneat’s contact, is at (408) 235-7760.



American Indian students in BIA schools will have access to the Internet in the coming school year.

The First Americans: Our Most Misunderstood People

Ada Deer

The most misunderstood people in our society are American Indians. Though President Clinton has designated a National American Indian Heritage Month to help others understand—and as great an honor as this presidential proclamation is—I like to consider that every month is American Indian Heritage Month!

So little is known about American Indians that I believe we need to create new opportunities to educate our citizens about the First Americans, including their history and current status. This is a story that is full of injustice, yet it also is one brimming with the remarkable accomplishments, patience, and endurance of Indian peoples.

I often encounter looks of amazement from people when I inform them that 554 federally recognized tribes currently have a government-to-government relationship with the United States. This common reaction of “There are that many tribes?” is not surprising because American history and civics textbooks tell our young people few, if any, of the simple and basic facts about American Indians.

I believe that most Americans think of Indians as one group and fail to consider the vast geographical, cultural, and economic differences among our tribes. Consider the more than 200 Native Villages populating Alaska; the Miccosukee Tribe maintaining its existence in the Florida Everglades; my own Menominee Tribe making wise use of its forest lands in Wisconsin; and the presence of countless other tribes throughout this nation. There’s incredible diversity and cultural richness among Indian peoples.

The Sovereignty of Tribal Nations



One tremendously important distinction that all federally recognized tribes share is their status as sovereign nations. Just as the 50 states have a sovereign status, so do Indian nations that are recognized by the United States. Unfortunately, few people, including many legislators, understand that tribes are recognized as governments in the U.S. Constitution.

We have federal, state, and TRIBAL governments coexisting in the United States. As a side note, it’s important and fascinating to know that the framers of the Constitution borrowed ideas about the branches of government from the **Iroquois Confederacy**. This is

but one of the many contributions American Indians have made to the United States and the world!

I like to say that although Columbus may have bumped into this continent by mistake, Indian peoples knew where they were: at home! As President Clinton noted in his Native American Heritage Month proclamation: “Throughout our history, American Indians and Alaska Native peoples have been an integral part of the American character. Against the odds, America’s first peoples have endured, and they remain a vital cultural, political, social, and moral presence.

“Tribal America has brought to this great country certain values and ideas that have become ingrained in the American spirit: the knowledge that humans can thrive and prosper without destroying the natural environment; the understanding that people from very different backgrounds, cultures, religions, and traditions can come together to build a great country; and the awareness that diversity can be a source of strength rather than division.”

On a personal note, I want to say that I have been and always will be very proud to be the president’s choice as the first woman assistant secretary for Indian Affairs. I can also say it’s never easy to be the first, but I have received much satisfaction in the many advances that have been made by this Administration on behalf of Tribal America.

When President Clinton invited all tribal leaders to the White House in 1994, the resulting event was an emotional and dramatic affirmation of this country’s recognition of the existence of Indian nations. The president also signed a memorandum that orders all federal agencies to strengthen the government-to-government relationship with tribes.

I’m proud to say that since that signing, two reports have been issued that document the many major strides taken by each federal agency. The Department of Health and Human Services has made many advances through the Administration for Native Americans and through other initiatives. Among other examples cited in a recent Clinton Administration report, the Justice Department has created an Office of Tribal Justice and the Environmental Protection Agency has significantly strengthened the assistance it gives to tribal environmental programs.

Another major change for the better is that tribes now have a greater opportunity to independently manage and operate their own governments. Thanks to recent changes in federal laws, tribes can contract for the services that once were provided by the government. We are seeing more tribal law enforcement departments, tribal social services programs, and tribal schools. As tribes gain greater independence, they also are expressing their desire to guide their own destinies.

Hart Named to Indian Graves Committee

Lawrence H. Hart, at right, has been appointed to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act review committee by Secretary Babbitt. Hart succeeds Cheyenne elder William Tallbull, who died last March. Hart, one of 44 Cheyenne peace chiefs, has been active in the repatriation of Native American human remains and other cultural items under the Act. He was nominated by the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes of Oklahoma and the Forest County Potawatomi. Photo courtesy of the National Park Service’s *Common Ground*, fall/winter 1996 issue.

The Era of Termination

In the 1950s there was a much darker and more threatening atmosphere for tribes. Known as the **Termination Era**, it was a time of sadness, loss, and great injustice. For affected tribes such as the Menominee and for tribal members such as myself, it was a devastating loss. In a nutshell, Termination began when Congress decided that if the federal government ceased to recognize tribes and provide benefits to them, then tribes somehow would find self sufficiency.

Instead, the result was catastrophic to tribes such as mine. Poverty, instability, and loss of economic independence was the norm. I knew that I had to change this terrible situation. From my earliest days, my mother—a proper Philadelphian who served as a nurse on the Menominee Reservation—let me know that I had a strict duty to serve other people. With these words ringing in my ear, I knew that I had to help lead my tribe back to restoration. It was a long, hard road, which took 20 years and plenty of door knocking and hall walking throughout Capitol Hill!

Termination was a misguided and now discredited policy that still has left its mark on many tribes. I’m proud to say that President Nixon signed the Menominee Restoration Act and that federal recognition in those intervening decades has helped my tribe regain its stability and its rightful place as a sovereign nation.

Many people remain confused over the origins of tribal sovereignty and treaties. Simply put, Tribes were sovereign nations long before the United States became a nation. Tribal nations were recognized formally by outsiders when they signed treaties with the British and others. This established diplomatic tradition led to tribes being included in the U.S. Constitution along with foreign nations and states.

We need to continue to educate our fellow citizens and our legislators about these basic facts of American government. As President Clinton so eloquently stated in his

National American Indian Heritage Month Proclamation, “Tribal America must figure as prominently in our future as it has in our past.”

This article was adapted from an address Assistant Secretary Ada Deer made to the U.S. Public Health Service Program.

BIA Proposes Recognition for Cowlitz Tribe

The BIA has issued a preliminary decision that proposes extending federal acknowledgment to the Cowlitz Indian Tribe of Longview, Washington. The Tribe, concentrated in Lewis County, Washington, now is subject to a 180-day public comment period, after which the Bureau of Indian Affairs will issue a final determination. If this final determination also is positive, members of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe will be eligible for certain rights and benefits accorded tribes that have federal recognition, which establishes a special government-to-government relationship between the tribe and the United States.

The BIA’s Branch of Acknowledgment and Research found that the Cowlitz Indian Tribe represents the amalgamation of two separate bands, the Lower Cowlitz Indians and the Upper Cowlitz Indians. The Cowlitz negotiated a treaty with the Federal Government in 1855, but their chiefs refused to sign it because the treaty provisions would have removed them from their traditional homeland along the Cowlitz River.

Both Cowlitz bands were headed by traditional chiefs from the mid-19th century through 1912. Since 1912, the group has maintained a single combined tribal organization that has elected officers and held regular meetings. The group has approximately 1,400 members. The address of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe is 1417 15th Avenue, #5, P.O. Box 2547, Longview, WA 98632-8594, telephone: (360) 577-8140. The chairman of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe’s General Council is **John Barnett**.



Denis P. Galvin,
Acting Bureau Director
Ricardo Lewis, Bureau Editor

Expedition Into the Pliocene

This summer, NPS will excavate the Hagerman Horse Quarry in **Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument**, Idaho, one of the most important fossil horse sites in the world. Paleontologists from the Smithsonian and the NPS will be joined by other world-renowned paleontologists for this expedition, which is supported by Canon U.S.A., Inc., through its Expedition into the Parks program.

Scientists will use new techniques and procedures that expand the horizons of traditional paleontology. State-of-the-art Geographic Information System technology, never before used in a paleontological excavation, will provide scientists with a unique permanent record of the fossils excavated this summer.

The concentration of many fossils at this site will allow scientists to see an entire Pliocene ecosystem, which has never been looked at before. Scientists will be able to tell what the world was like 3.2 million years ago and gather new information about the process of evolution. The excavation will start May 13 under the direction of the NPS. With the threat of ongoing landslides in the area, Canon's timely funding of this project will save priceless fossils from destruction. Public Affairs Contact: Cindy Daly (202) 208-4993.

National Scout Jamboree

The National Park Service will join other Interior agencies and state and private organizations at the National Scout Jamboree this summer to provide natural resource conservation exhibits and activities. The quadrennial event will be held at Fort A.P. Hill near Fredericksburg, Virginia, July 28-August 5. Story, Page 5.

Groundwater Guardians

This spring and summer, **Mammoth Cave National Park** (Kentucky), and state environmental protection employees will be training local volunteer emergency response crews in south-central Kentucky to use a newly designed groundwater hazard map, so that spills of hazardous materials in the area can be quickly contained. The effort is being conducted through the Mammoth Cave Area Biosphere Reserve program, administered through the Barren River Area Development District.

The District, which was chartered by the Commonwealth of Kentucky, includes a board of directors consisting of locally elected officials, making the Biosphere Program a locally managed effort rather than a federal undertaking. Already, the partnerships created through the Biosphere Reserve Program have enhanced rapid and professional response to oil spills and pollution events. Such events could contaminate the area's watershed, which extends more than 60,000 acres beyond the park's boundaries.

Edison Sesquesentennial

Edison National Historic Site will mark the 150th birthday of the prolific inventor with a series of lectures, concerts and films as well as a three-day national conference on interpreting Edison's legacy. Story, Page 7.

Senior Executive Reassignments
for Pacific West Region

Denis Galvin, the NPS acting deputy director, announced the reassignments of three of the bureau's most experienced senior executives.

Stanley Albright, who has been the Pacific West regional director since June 1987, will become acting superintendent of Yosemite National Park (California). Albright brings more than 40 years of park operations management experience to the job. Albright has been intimately involved in Yosemite issues and challenges both as the Pacific West regional director and as someone who was raised in the area and continues to have close community ties and strong professional relationships throughout the Sierra Nevada. These factors along with his strong background in park operations, science and resource management make him the Service's perfect choice for managing the park through continuing flood recovery efforts and the next critical phase of carrying out the park's General Management Plan.

Yosemite Superintendent **Barbara (B.J.) Griffin** will become general manager of the Presidio, at a crucial point, as the NPS and newly established Presidio Trust work together to define their relationship and how the park site will be managed. Griffin was offered the Presidio post after demonstrating exceptional leadership skills in bringing Yosemite through one of the largest floods in the park's history, and is recognized for her keen management insights, and ability to negotiate and compromise with special interests.

John Reynolds will move from general manager of the Presidio (California) to the Directorship of the Pacific West Region, headquartered in San Francisco, California. In this new post, Reynolds will oversee an area extending 106 degrees around the globe from Nevada to Hawaii and the outer Pacific. The region preserves resources as varied as remote wilderness, rain forests, and deserts in national parks such as Yosemite(California), Olympic (Washington) and Death Valley (California) to major urban parks including the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (California), one of the most visited sites in the National Park System with nearly 15 million visits annually.

"These dedicated park managers have long demonstrated a deep commitment to the preservation of our parks and our heritage," Galvin said. "They are extremely qualified and well-suited for taking on the challenges presented in each of these crucially important leadership positions. They also bring to the region, years of experience dealing with



Stanley Albright



Barbara Griffin



John Reynolds

Yosemite's General Management Plan and expertise in Presidio operations as we begin the transition toward management and oversight by the Presidio Trust."

Albright is the nephew of the late **Horace T. Albright**, co-founder of the NPS and its second director. Prior to serving as Pacific West field director, Albright held the post of NPS associate director, Operations, in Washington from October 1980 to June 1987. For three years prior to that he was associate regional director for Operations of the Pacific West Region. He has served as superintendent of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (California) and Bandelier National Monument (New Mexico). He also was state director in Alaska during the early 1970s when the studies were done, which led to doubling the size of the National Park System by the addition of 44 million acres of new Alaska parkland. Albright graduated from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1958. He and his wife, Kris, have two sons, Sean and John.

Griffin has served as Yosemite's superintendent since 1995. Prior to this post, she served as the regional director of the Northeast Region (formerly the Mid-Atlantic Region). She held the post of associate regional director for Operations in the Pacific West Region from 1990 to 1993. She was assistant superintendent of Yosemite from 1987 to 1990. Griffin also served as superintendent of Castillo de San Marcos and Fort Matanzas National Monuments (Florida) from 1984 to 1987. Griffin obtained a B.A. degree from Mercer University in Atlanta, Georgia (graduated *magna cum laude*) in 1976. She completed graduate level courses at Carnegie-Mellon University (Pennsylvania) in 1992 to acquire certification for the NPS Senior Executive Service program. Griffin's hometown is Shreveport, Louisiana. She has one son, Randy.

Reynolds is a second-generation NPS employee and 31-year veteran of the agency, who was born in Yellowstone National Park (Wyoming, Montana, Idaho). He served as NPS deputy director from August 1993 to October 1996, when he took over as general manager of the Presidio. Reynolds also has served as Northeast Region's field director, Denver Service Center director, North Cascades National Park (Washington) superintendent, and Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (California) assistant superintendent. He led the development of the Yosemite General Management Plan.

Yosemite National Park Status Update

Road Repair Update for Yosemite Portion of Highway 140: The initial emergency stabilization of the portion of Highway 140 inside Yosemite National Park has been completed. The next step, emergency repairs to alleviate safety concerns on six portions of the road, began Monday, April 7, 1997. These repairs are expected to be completed in time to open the road to unrestricted visitor access by the Memorial Day holiday weekend. Long term repairs will begin again after the Labor Day holiday weekend. During this period, the road will be open for public use with some construction delays likely.

Proposed Day Use Reservation System Will Not Be Implemented: An emergency vehicle reservation system proposed for Yosemite National Park this summer will not be implemented. However, due to increasing congestion and construction activity related to flood recovery

efforts in and around Yosemite Valley, the restricted access plan will be implemented this summer. It is anticipated that restricted access will need to be utilized more often this summer than in previous years.

Campground Update: Reservations for campsites in Upper Pines, North Pines, Wawona and Hodgdon Meadows campgrounds for the period of May 15 through August 14 may be made by calling DESTINET at (800) 436-PARK. Some campsites in Lower Pines for the period April 16 through September 14 will be available for reservation beginning April 15. Upper Pines campground is now open on a reservation basis. Campsites in Lower Pines, Wawona, Hodgdon Meadow and Sunnyside Walk-in Campgrounds are now available on a first come, first served basis.



Grand Canyon National Park superintendent Robert Arnberger presents a special achievement award to Steve Sullivan in recognition of his significant contributions in developing the park's backcountry reservation system.



Joe Gambsky, a road and trails supervisor at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, holds the rabbit he caught there last September with the aid of his road crew. Hawaii Tribune-Herald photos by William Ing

Road area; one was hand-caught by a park maintenance staffer and one was shot. Two to three more rabbits were sighted there in December; one was shot but the whereabouts of the others remain unknown.

In the last several years, there have been singular sightings of rabbits running wild in the park near Halape, Chain of Craters Road, Thurston Lava Tube, Steam Vents, Kilauea Military Camp, Kipuka Puauulu, and the Hilo boundary. They also have been spotted on the loose in adjacent subdivisions “just a hop, skip, and a jump away.”

These rabbits are believed to be intentionally released domestic European species, the kind sold at pet stores. Most island residents are unaware of the destructive potential of these cuddly, doe-eyed creatures. And pet owners who tire of their animals may think the park a perfect dumping ground. Yet, nothing could be further from the truth.

To a rabbit, the Hawaiian forest is an “all-you-can-eat” salad bar. Because native plants evolved in isolation, free from the grazing pressures of chomper and stomper, there are rarely any nasty thorns, obnoxious odors, or unpleasant

Grand Canyon Supervisor Earns Star Award

Grand Canyon National Park superintendent **Robert Arnberger** recently presented the STAR award and a \$5,000 check to Grand Canyon employee **Steve Sullivan**, supervisor of the Backcountry Office, for his outstanding contribution in developing a computerized reservation system, largely on his own time.

According to Arnberger, the STAR award is given to employees as a thank you for achieving results. “This is the largest cash award that I have given to any employee in my career,” said Arnberger, “but when I saw the program Steve produced and realized the benefits and savings to the Service, anything less would have been inappropriate. Steve saw a need and found a solution. This award recognizes the countless hours he donated to the Service while meeting this difficult challenge. I am proud of his accomplishments.”

The program that Sullivan designed has already proven to be extremely valuable in streamlining the process for issuing and tracking backcountry permit requests. His work resulted in a program that is much more accessible and efficient in determining use patterns and developing statistical information that

tastes to deter a rabbit’s incessant nibbling. Bunnies find the young leaves, seedlings, and buds of mamane, koa, ohelo, and pabpalai irresistible.

Those large front teeth that give Bugs Bunny his distinctive “Ehhh, what’s up Doc?” grin grow continuously, and can quite effectively girdle and strip bark from trees. Six rabbits can eat as much as a single sheep. Their 20-25 foot long digestive systems are designed to allow consumption of huge quantities of low nutritive value food and adapted to absorb all the available nutrients.

First domesticated about 4,000 years ago, rabbits have a legendary ability to multiply. A wild doe can have up to seven litters of six to eight young a year during the three most fertile years of her life; her pups are weaned at six to eight weeks. It is estimated that a single pair of rabbits and their progeny can potentially produce almost 13 million rabbits in three years. In Hawaii, feral cats and dogs, mongooses, barn owls, *pueo* (Hawaiian owl) and *io* (Hawaiian hawk) are potential predators.

Lessons learned at Haleakala National Park on Maui reinforce the urgency of immediate and intensive control methods. In July 1990, rangers there spotted several rabbits running loose near the Homer Grove campground. Inspection of the area by biologists showed that rabbits were living and reproducing over an area of 60 acres in nearby shrubland. An all-out eradication program ensued. Nearly 100 of the elusive creatures were trapped, shot, and snared over the next six months, and the last rabbit was snared in May 1991.

Lloyd Loope, a research scientist at Haleakala, estimated that without successful eradication efforts, bunny numbers would have swelled into the millions in just a few years. (An apologetic former pet owner anonymously confessed to having released six unwanted rabbits near Hosmer Grove in October 1989.)

The State of Hawaii early-on enacted legislation to stave off such ecological calamity. It is illegal to intentionally release rabbits, and state law allows for the killing of any unconfined rabbit. Rabbits kept outdoors are legally required to be housed in a hutch that’s off the ground so that these master diggers don’t tunnel their way to freedom. Rabbit owners who can no longer care for their animals are encouraged to turn them over to the Hawaii Humane Society, which maintains a list of folks waiting to adopt bunnies. A preferable alternative is to avoid the impulse to acquire a pet rabbit, especially during the Easter season, if you are not committed to caring for it over the long-term.

Tunison considers any rabbit sighting a serious, potentially disastrous, omen. If park visitors see a rabbit, they should note the time and exact location, and immediately call the park’s division of resource management at (808) 967-8226.

Mardie Lane is a Park Ranger at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and can be reached at (808) 985-6018.

Rabbits Threaten Native Plants

Mardie Lane

Here comes Peter Cottontail, hopping down the bunny trail may ring as a sweet refrain to some, but to rangers at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park it sounds an intruder alert that cannot be ignored. Recent sightings of rabbits running wild in the upland forest of Mauna Loa pose a “hare-raising” prospect, according to **Tim Tunison**, chief of Resource Management. If rabbits became established in the park and multiplied out-of-control, years of effort in promoting the recovery of native plants and wildlife would be lost.

Last September two rabbits were sighted, and later tracked down and removed from the Mauna Loa

Partnerships; Local, Regional and State Agencies and Organizations. Proposals must include a cover page with name, institutional affiliation, address, telephone and fax numbers; a typed, one-page abstract of the paper; biographical profile of the presenter; name of equipment and/or special needs.

Because of the growing number of proposals, individuals may be restricted to one presentation. Individual presentations must not exceed twenty minutes. Papers for publication consideration must be presented in ten or fewer typewritten, double-spaced, pages including notes and bibliography. All documentation must be defined in the Chicago Manual of Style.

Abstracts should be mailed to the Appalachian Consortium, Linear Parks Conference, University Hall, Boone, North Carolina 28608, no later than June 2. Notification of acceptance will be made by July 1. For more information, contact the Appalachian Consortium, by telephone, at (704) 262-2064 or by fax at (704) 262-2553.

Blue Ridge Parkway Conference

The Seventh Biennial Linear Parks Conference will be held September 11-13, 1997, at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, near Asheville. The theme is *A Blue Ridge Heritage Corridor: Celebrating Our Past, Creating Our Future*. Conference organizers are soliciting individual papers, multi-paper sessions, and roundtable or group discussions that explore aspects of the theme. Presentations on the conference theme will be given preference over other topics related to linear parks.

Sponsors of the conference are Blue Ridge Parkway, Handmade in America, the Appalachian Consortium, Broyhill Family Foundation, North Carolina Council for the Arts, and the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Topic areas for discussions include, but are not limited to, the following: Cultural Heritage; Economic Development; Ecotourism; Heritage Tourism; Natural Resources, Design, Management and Protection; Scenic Resources;